

PROBLEMI DI  
NOMENCLATURA

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ON THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF *SCALARIA STRIATISSIMA*  
MONTEROSATO\*\*.

Riassunto

*Scalaria striatissima* MONTEROSATO, 1878 è stata recentemente trasferita nel genere *Amaea* H. & A. ADAMS, 1853. Questo genere tuttavia è caratterizzato, fra l'altro, anche dalla presenza di disco basale delimitato da un cordoncino spirale. L'ultimo giro si presenta quindi, nel gen. *Amaea*, come del resto in molti altri generi della fam. Epitoniidae, con un duplice tipo di scultura, mancante invece nel gen. *Epitonium*. Si ritiene quindi che il nome valido per la specie in oggetto, che possiede scultura uniforme sull'ultimo giro, debba essere *Epitonium (Asperiscala) striatissimum* (MONTEROSATO, 1878).

In his enumeration of molluscs dredged in the neighbourhood of Palermo, MONTEROSATO (1878: 151) described very briefly a new *Scalaria* species as follows:

« 90. *S. striatissima*, MONTEROSATO, n. sp. - Coquille excessivement fragile, cornée, transparente, munie de nombreuses costulations filiformes et striée en sens spiral, de manière que la totalité de la superficie se trouve couverte. Aucune autre espèce Méditerranéenne ne présente une semblable contexture. La forme générale ressemble à celle du *S. pulchella*, BIVONA ».

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The exact systematic position of this interesting species remained doubtful until FRANCHINI (1975: 17, textfig.) transferred it to the genus *Amaea* and mentioned it as *Amea* (sic!) (*Foratiscala*) *striatissima* (MONTEROSATO, 1878). Recently PIANI (1980: 137) mentioned it also as *Amaea striatissima*.

A study of numerous specimens of *S. striatissima* from dredgings along the Mediterranean coast of Israel revealed that the combined sculpture of axial and spiral ribs reminds indeed that of many *Amaea* species. However, the genus *Amaea* H. & A. ADAMS, 1853 and its numerous subgenera (vide WENZ, 1840: 800-805; CLENCH & TURNER, 1950: 242-243) are all characterized by the presence of a basal plate or ridge, separating two types of sculpture on the body whorl. This basal plate/ridge is absent in *S. striatissima* and therefore it can not be referred to *Amaea* or any of its subgenera. On the contrary the sculptural characters of *S. striatissima* and its completely smooth nuclear whorls makes it clear that we are dealing here with a typical representative of *Asperiscala* DE BOURY, 1909, which is considered a subgenus of *Epitonium* RÖDING, 1798.

The correct systematic position of *Scalardia striatissima* should read therefore in my opinion *Epitonium (Asperiscala) striatissimum* (MONTEROSATO, 1878).

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